(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir. Bigger stations have higher turnover than smaller stations.

(b) to (d) Licence fees, linked with sales turnover, varies from station to station, depending on the sale turnover of the station. The main objective to link licence fee with sales turnover, was to rationalise different levies from catering/ vending contractors such as conservancy charges, rental for building and vendor's fee, 3 to 4% of sale turnover, etc. as part of licence fee, which were separately being recovered prior to this policy.

Poor catering in trains between New Delhi and Bilaspur

4398. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the MINISTER OF RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Members of Parliament and other VIPs have made complaints in respect of poor catering service in trains running between Hazrat Nizamuddin/ New Delhi and Bilaspur;

(b) if so, the action taken against the catering units/persons responsible for the poor catering services;

(c) whether DRM and other officials have made any surprise checking in these trains; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) One complaint was received in 1998 in this regard and a fine of Rs. 3000/- has been imposed on the licensee. Intensive monitoring is being done at different levels including divisonal officers. Suitable punitive action is taken wherever required.

Responsibility of G.Ms for Rail Safety Lapses

4399. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Zonal Railway General Managers would be made answerable for rail safety lapses;

(b) if so, whether the safety jobs have been decentralised; and

(c) the action proposed to re-deploy surplus staff for safety projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Each accident including serious ones are inquired into either by Railway officials or by Commission of Railway Safety, an independent body under the control of Ministry of Civil Aviation to establish causes of accidents and make recommendations. As per findings of inquiry reports whosoever is held responsible for an accident irrespective of the level is taken up.

(b) Safety depends on each and every department, officers and staff strictly adhering to rules framed and instructions issued from time to time. Since safety is to be basically ensured by the field level operator, to that extent job of ensuring safety is decentralised.

(c) Surplus staff are re-deployed on alternative jobs as per requirement.

Deplorable conditions in Rajdhani

4400. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item entitled, "seepage rates in Rajdhani coaches make passengers fret" appearing in the Express Newsline dated 3rd August, 2001, regarding the deteriorating condition and quality of service on the prestigious Rajdhanis;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that the upkeep and maintenance of the Rajdhanis, operating particularly in the Eastern Sector, which includes West Bengal, Assam and Orissa, is getting deplorable; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to improve the service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The coaches running on Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains have been examined for water seepage through windows and pest control arrangements have been reviewed and the following action is being taken for improvement :